

PRESS RELEASE

TARRANT — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) met with Mayor Loxcil Tuck and other City representatives at a project kickoff meeting at Tarrant City Hall on January 30th. The meeting marks the kickoff for the Brownfields Cleanup Grant awarded in October 2016 for the Tarrant Industrial Complex. The purpose of the EPA's Brownfields Cleanup Grant is to provide for cleanup of properties and provide funding for projects that protect public health and the environment and support beneficial reuse.

In keeping with this mission, the City of Tarrant plans to restore the cap near buildings in the City Complex and construct remedial plant plots that will improve groundwater conditions in the area. In an area related to this project, the Tarrant Redevelopment Authority will construct an Enviroplex, which will include an outdoor classroom, educational wetland, and active phytoremediation plots. Over the course of time, walking trails, informational plaques, and other educational media will be developed for Tarrant and the Jefferson County region in coordination with a broad list of educational institutions.

Some of the educational institutions that have already pledged support for the project include the Tarrant Board of Education, Tarrant Elementary School, Samford University, Birmingham-Southern College, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Environmental and community groups have pledged support to this project as well; these include the Nature Conservancy, Freshwater Land Trust, and CAWACO.